Ли Цы

Saint-Petersburg State University

Media as a tool in China’s security strategy

The report, which is published by the Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China, shows, that the financial budget of “public security” is 199 billion yuan at the year of 2018. It increased by 5.5% of the last year’s actual expenses. However, the “public security” is understood by the western media as the object related to “safeguard stability”. Of course media is one of the tools used by the government to be in its handling of all the information and realize the strategic aim of “safeguard stability”. This study expands on the Chinese media by exploring its integration with China’s security strategy. Two cases are examined: (1) China–United States trade war and (2) Xinjiang reeducation camps. The case studies are delimited in two ways. First, the cases will be bounded in time from the beginning of 2018 to the present. Second, the analysis will seek only to explain how media is used—not whether it is effective.

As the government deems, that some unsuitable information could indirectly spark social unrest and divisive internal conflicts, it regulates Internet use in a number of ways. Internet companies in China, including Sina, need licenses to operate, and are required to police themselves, filtering out any illegal content, which ranges from pornographic to politically sensitive material. Websites based elsewhere may be blocked in their entirety or users can be periodically locked out if they continuously surf onto Web sites that contain certain key words.

The technology used to accomplish this—said by official media to have been built with substantial input from Mr. Fang — is often referred to as the Great Firewall, or GFW. In recent years an increasing number of Chinese Internet users are learning about its existence and — to a lesser extent — about how to circumvent it. Meanwhile, services like microblogging are speeding up the flow of information, making it more difficult to control. Even then, the main source of the majority’s acquiring information is still inside the wall. So the government bring itself convenience to uninform or misinform and beautify its image in both two cases. In other words, this is one of the way to keep security.

And as a result, the problem is as Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi [[1]](#footnote-1)wrote in his last column : “ A state-run narrative dominates the public psyche, and while many do not believe it, a large majority of the population falls victim to this false narrative. Sadly, this situation is unlikely to change.”

1. Jamal bin Ahmad Khashoggi (13 October 1958 – 2 October 2018) was a Saudi Arabian journalist, author, and a former general manager and editor-in-chief of Al-Arab News Channel. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)